

Housing assistance with services Adult Criminal Justice

Literature review updated August 2016.

As part of WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies, WSIPP determines "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using an approach called meta-analysis. For detail on our methods, see our [Technical Documentation](#). At this time, WSIPP has not yet calculated benefits and costs for this topic.

Program Description: Housing assistance programs for individuals reentering from incarceration are intended to mitigate the negative impacts of homelessness on the reentry process. These forms of housing are considered voluntary and last a minimum of three months post-release. Housing programs in this analysis are service-enriched, meaning they provide services such as job training, employment, or substance abuse treatment in addition to temporary or transitional housing options. Housing assistance programs are distinct from community based correctional facilities (e.g., halfway houses) in the following ways: 1) they do not act as a formal model of supervision in the community; 2) participants are not required to participate in the provided treatment and programming services for release; and 3) violation of supervision conditions in these programs is not automatically grounds for parole or probation revocation.

Community based correctional facilities (e.g., halfway houses) and stand-alone housing programs are not included in this analysis; they are analyzed separately. Housing assistance programs without service provision are also excluded from this analysis and analyzed separately.

Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes measured	No. of effect sizes	Treatment N	Adjusted effect sizes and standard errors used in the benefit-cost analysis						Unadjusted effect size (random effects model)	
			First time ES is estimated			Second time ES is estimated				
			ES	SE	Age	ES	SE	Age	ES	p-value
Crime	5	1329	-0.078	0.055	37	-0.078	0.055	47	-0.119	0.190

Meta-analysis is a statistical method to combine the results from separate studies on a program, policy, or topic in order to estimate its effect on an outcome. WSIPP systematically evaluates all credible evaluations we can locate on each topic. The outcomes measured are the types of program impacts that were measured in the research literature (for example, crime or educational attainment). Treatment N represents the total number of individuals or units in the treatment group across the included studies.

An effect size (ES) is a standard metric that summarizes the degree to which a program or policy affects a measured outcome. If the effect size is positive, the outcome increases. If the effect size is negative, the outcome decreases.

Adjusted effect sizes are used to calculate the benefits from our benefit cost model. WSIPP may adjust effect sizes based on methodological characteristics of the study. For example, we may adjust effect sizes when a study has a weak research design or when the program developer is involved in the research. The magnitude of these adjustments varies depending on the topic area.

WSIPP may also adjust the second ES measurement. Research shows the magnitude of some effect sizes decrease over time. For those effect sizes, we estimate outcome-based adjustments which we apply between the first time ES is estimated and the second time ES is estimated. We also report the unadjusted effect size to show the effect sizes before any adjustments have been made. More details about these adjustments can be found in our [Technical Documentation](#).

Citations Used in the Meta-Analysis

Fontaine, J., Gilchrist, Scott, D., Roman, J., Taxy, S., & Roman, C. (2012). *Supportive housing for returning prisoners: Outcomes and impacts of the Returning Home-Ohio pilot project*. Washington, D.C: Urban Institute, Justice Policy Center.

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- Wilson, J.A., & Zozula, C. (2012). Risk, recidivism, and (re)habilitation: Another look at project greenlight. *Prison Journal*, 92(2), 203-230.
- Worcel, S.D., Burrus, S.W.M., & Finigan, M.W., Sanders, M.B., & Allen, T.L. (2009). *A study of substance-free transitional housing and community corrections in Washington County, Oregon*. Portland, OR: NPC Research.

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